at various storage Depots of the State Trading Corporation which holds and operates the stocks on behalf of the Central Government.

(c) Demand has been received from a number of States/UTs. for allocation of imported edible oil for PDS and orders for release of the oil have been issued accordingly.

(d) Does not arise.

Demand to Repeal Essential Commodities Act

5809. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK:
MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a growing demand to repeal the Essential Commodities (Special Provision) Act, 1981;

(b) whether Government propose to repeal the Act; and

(c) if so, the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Representations are received from time to time from trade organisations for repealing of the Essential Commodities (Special Provision) Act, 1981. There has been no demand for repealing of the Act from any State Government/UT Administration.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

National Policy for PDS

5810. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any national policy for implementing a new uniform public distribution system in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) The Advisory Council on Public Distribution System (PDS), in its meeting held on 21.3.93, had set up a Committee of Ministers of Food and Civil Supplies in States Governments to give their recommendations for formulating a National Policy on PDS in the country. The committee of Ministers, has among other things, made the following observations:—

(i) In a country as large and diverse as India, a rigidly uniform system of PDS cannot be implemented.

(ii) Unless the relatively better off sections are excluded from entitlement to PDS foodgrains, the poorer households cannot be provided with more foodgrains.

(iii) All States/UTs should implement the principle of exclusion of the relatively better off categories so that access to PDS can be restricted to the needy and deserving sections of the society.

These recommendations have to be considered in consultation with the State Governments/UTs.

Inadequate supply of Sugar to FPS in Delhi

5811. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to inadequate supply of sugar to the Fair Price Shops in Delhi and other parts of the country, the consumers were not able to get their quota